

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group A, claim(s) 50-84, 87-88, and 90-98, drawn to an infant carrier.

Group B, claim(s) 85-86, drawn to a joining structure.

Group C, claim(s) 89, drawn to a fixing side buckle.

2. The inventions listed as Groups A-C do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the special technical feature of Group A is the infant carrier which is not present in Group B or Group C. Likewise, the special technical feature of Group B is the joining structure which is not present in Group A or Group C. Furthermore, the special technical feature of Group C is the fixing side buckle which is not present in Group A or Group B.

3. Furthermore, **if Applicant elects the invention of Group A**, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 50-57, drawn to an infant carrier main body and horizontal seat with a head support and hanging board.

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Group II, claim(s) 58-63, drawn to an infant carrier main body and vertical seat with a back board.

Group III, claim(s) 64-68, drawn to an infant carrier main body and vertical seat with a bag portion and sheet fastening portion.

Group IV, claim(s) 69-71, 83, 84, drawn to an infant carrier main body.

Group V, claim(s) 72-76, drawn to an infant carrier main body and horizontal seat with head and buttock hang tools.

Group VI, claim(s) 77-78, drawn to an infant carrier main body and horizontal seat with a mat and head guard.

Group VII, claim(s) 79 and 81, drawn to an infant carrier main body and vertical seat with ring fasteners.

Group VIII, claim(s) 80, drawn to an infant carrier main body and vertical seat with a head support and support belt.

Group IX, claim(s) 82, drawn to an infant carrier main body and vertical seat with an inner packing material.

Group X, claim(s) 87-88, 97, drawn to an infant carrier main body.

Group XI, claim(s) 90-96, drawn to an infant carrier main body and horizontal seat with a swing stop fastening.

Group XII, claim(s) 98, drawn to an infant carrier main body and horizontal seat with an abdomen pad.

4. The inventions listed as Groups I-XII do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the common technical feature in all groups is the infant carrier main body. This element cannot be a special technical feature under PCT Rule 13.2 because the element is shown in the prior art. US Patents 5,246,152 and 4,467,945 teach the use of an infant carrier main body substantially as claimed in claims 50-84, 87-88, and 90-98.

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5. A telephone call was made to Young & Thompson on 10/20/2009 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

6. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to COREY N. SKURDAL whose telephone number is (571)272-9588. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Newhouse can be reached on 571-272-4544. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/C. N. S./
Examiner, Art Unit 3782

/Nathan J. Newhouse/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3782